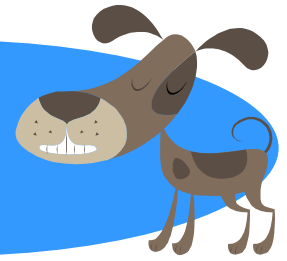


Gimme Shelter

News from the Loudoun County Animal Shelter

Loudoun County
Department of
Animal Care &
Control



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Kittens are Coming

Spring is the beginning of “kitten season” – the time of year when cats give birth and animal shelters are overwhelmed with homeless litters. The Loudoun County Animal Shelter is no exception, and as the weather is getting warmer, is already beginning to see an increase in very young and orphaned kittens coming to the facility. These kittens are many times too young or too small to go directly into an adoptive home, and the best place for them is with a foster family.

Foster homes are most often needed for kittens too young to be adopted or mother cats with their babies. These animals require a level of care and socialization that is difficult to achieve in a shelter environment that is not staffed 24 hours-a-day. Foster care provides one of the few opportunities these animals have to survive.

Adult cats are also in need of the kind of the special, one-on-one care a foster home provides, especially during this time when the Animal Shelter is experiencing a rise in its cat and kitten population. Many older or more sensitive cats are able to thrive in foster homes with families that love them, which helps ease their transition into permanent adoptive homes.

While cats are most in need, there are also opportunities for dogs and other animals to be placed with foster families. Any animal that is in need of special socialization or just a little more time to grow up can benefit from a foster environment.

Depending on their individual situation, animals may be in their foster homes for several days to several weeks. Foster families are provided with training and support from Animal Shelter staff to ensure that they are prepared to care for the animals in their home and any special needs they may have.

An informational orientation to the foster care program will be held during **Furry Friday on Friday, April 17 at 5:00PM at the Sterling Community Center.** Potential foster parents will learn more about the program and how they can help animals in need. Anyone interested in fostering is encouraged to attend!

Find out more about the Animal Shelter and its foster program online at www.loudoun.gov/animals.



Congratulations!

Animal Care & Control was honored with two awards at the annual Council of Governments Animal Services Awards! The ceremony was held March 13 at the COG headquarters in Washington. Loudoun County was honored with the 2008 **Animal Care Award** for its work caring for 48 horses in addition to hundreds of other animals for much of the year. Also, Shelter Manager Inga Fricke was honored with the 2008 **Adoption Award** for her efforts in finding placements for the horses in just over 10 months.

This also marks the third year in a row that Loudoun has won the Adoption Award!

Congratulations everyone!



Microchip Clinic Coming

Animal Care & Control is joining the Northern Virginia Community College's Veterinary Technology Club for a day of fun and care for dogs!

On **Sunday, April 19**, the Vet Tech Club will be hosting a dog wash at the NVCC Loudoun Campus from **11am-3pm**. Costs will be \$20 for large dogs, \$15 for medium dogs, \$10 for small dogs, and \$5 for nail trims. Proceeds will benefit the Vet Tech Club's community outreach program.

In addition, the Loudoun Veterinary Association will be offering reduced rate rabies vaccinations for \$10 (dogs only).

Animal Care & Control will be offering **FREE pet microchipping services** for Loudoun County residents and Loudoun County Government/Schools

employees.

Microchipping is a safe, permanent way of identifying lost pets found by Animal Control or a veterinary office.

The microchip itself is about the size of a grain of rice. It is implanted under the skin in the area around the shoulders through a needle. The procedure is no more invasive than a vaccination shot, and requires no anesthesia or recovery time.

Once it is implanted, the number on the chip can be read by a scanner (similar to a bar code scanner). The number can then be traced back to the owner so that they can be reunited with their pet.



The NVCC Loudoun Campus is located at 1000 Harry Flood Byrd Highway (Route 7) in Sterling. The event will be held in the Vet Tech building. For directions, please visit www.nvcc.edu.

Employee of the Month

Angela Joynt is March's Employee of the Month! Angela works as the Department's Administrative Assistant and has been with the Department for four years.

Angela is being recognized for her outstanding commitment to teamwork and her willingness to step in wherever she is needed. In March, Angela helped in all areas of the Department, from assisting at the front counter to helping the shelter staff cleaning kennels. She helps with the Department's cable TV show and other community outreach efforts as well.

Angela was also a huge support to Animal Control this month by assisting in their response to the barn fire in Leesburg that claimed the lives of several dogs and horses. Angela jumped in to help with triage and recordkeeping, and was, as always, a valuable member of the team.

Thank you Angela for all you do!

Congratulations Angela!



What We're Up To...

Furry Fridays

April's **Furry Friday** events are scheduled for **Friday, April 3** and **Friday, April 17**, at the **Sterling Community Center**. On April 3, shelter pets will be there from 5-7pm looking for new, loving homes. In addition to adoptions, the April 17 Furry Friday will be an information session for potential foster families. We hope to see you there! The Community Center is located at 120 Enterprise Street in Sterling.

Bunny Bonanza

Join Animal Care & Control at the annual **Bunny Bonanza** on Wednesday, April 8, 10:00am to 1:00pm at the Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum. Learn all about responsible pet ownership and visit with a few rascally rabbits! It's a fun time for the whole family. For more information, visit www.heritagefarmmuseum.org.



Remember—the best Easter Bunny is a chocolate one!